

Human Development Report 2004

PUNJAB



Government of Punjab
INDIA

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ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ, ਪੰਜਾਬ
Chief Minister, Punjab
ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ
Chandigarh

Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce the first Human Development Report for Punjab. Human development is defined by the United Nations Development Programme as enlarging the range of people's choices. The most critical of these wide ranging choices are to live a long and healthy life, be educated and to have access to resources required for decent standard of living.

Punjab has the distinction of being one of the most prosperous state in the country. India's transition from a food importing country to a country not only self-sufficient in food grains but as a food exporter, is in large measure a success of the Green Revolution spearheaded by Punjab. The state also has high levels of achievement in education and health sectors. However, there is still a lot of scope for improvement.

The gains of development have not benefited all equally. The Punjab Human Development Report highlights the disparities in the levels of achievement among the various sections of the society. I am confident that this report would enable the formulation of future strategies for further improving the human development attainments in Punjab.

I would like to thank the Planning Commission, Government of India, and the United Nations Development Programme for all the assistance and support provided for the preparation of this report and look forward to future cooperation in following up the messages of this report. I also thank the 'Sanket' and Economic & Statistical Organisation, Punjab, Department of Planning, for preparing this report.

(Captain Amarinder Singh)

August 28, 2004



SURINDER SINGLA
Finance & Planning Minister, Punjab

Message

Punjab has a creditable record of development. It is the trendsetter state in the green revolution strategy adopted during mid-sixties. It is not only the country's largest granary but also plays a crucial role in defending India against military aggression. India's journey from a country, which had to import food-grains to one, which now produces a food surplus has been led by Punjab. The enterprise and hard work of the Punjabi farmer and the support provided by both Central & State Governments have contributed in crucial ways to Punjab's agricultural dynamism.

However, amidst prosperity, pockets of deprivations remain amongst sections and areas. In other words, the benefit of development has not reached equally to various sections of the population or to people living in different regions of the State. In particular progress has been uneven in the field of education, health & nutrition despite the remarkable growth of the economy. In this background under the dynamic leadership and guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the State Government had undertaken the preparation of the first Human Development Report as part of its commitment to "people-centred" development. This report is an important research-cum-policy document, which focuses on the current levels of the achievement, area of the concern and possible ways of progress with reference to crucial socio-economic indicators. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and objective assessment of the status of human development within the state to help in deciding inter-sectoral as well as inter-regional financial allocations and enable us to identify areas that require particular policy attention. With this in mind I am extremely pleased to share the report with the people of Punjab and all who have stake in the future progress of this strategic state.

August 31, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Surinder Singla'.

(Surinder Singla)



Planning Commission



Message

We congratulate the Government of Punjab for preparing its first Human Development Report.

The state of Punjab occupies an extremely important position in India. India's transition from a food importing country to a country not only self-sufficient in food grains but as a food exporter has been spearheaded by Punjab.

Yet, as the report highlights, the remarkable achievements of the state have not been equitable. Development in Punjab has had a gender dimension, a class and caste dimension and even a geographical dimension to it. The Punjab Human Development Report analyses the challenges faced by agriculturists, the backward sections, the migrants and women in the state.

Punjab is at a more advanced stage of development than most other Indian states and is currently facing second generation development challenges, The state can once again lead the nation by demonstrating how to overcome these challenges, as it did during the Green Revolution.

We once again felicitate the Government of Punjab for preparing its Human Development Report and hope that the report will give an impetus to the Government's effort towards equitable development.

Rohini Nayyar

Adviser (RD), Planning Commission
Government of India

Maxine Olson

UNDP Resident Representative &
UN Resident Coordinator



Glory of Punjab

Acknowledgements

The Preparation of the first Punjab Human Development Report (HDR) has been an initiative of the Government of Punjab supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Planning Commission, Government of India. The dynamic leadership of Captain Amarinder Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, and the constant support and encouragement of Shri Surinder Singla, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Finance and Planning, was crucial in preparation of the report. Earlier, the then Minister-in-Charge of Finance and Planning, S. Lal Singh, played a vital role in this process.

A unique feature of the Human Development Report for Punjab, is that it has been prepared by a well-known non-government agency, namely Sanket, having rich experience and expertise in preparing State Human Development Reports. The aim of assigning this report to a non-government agency was to have an objective view of the reality of the Punjab state. We wish to thank the Sanket team that prepared the report – Mr. Sandeep Dikshit, Mrs. Romila Dhawan, Ms. Monika Banerjee, Ms. Deeksha Vasundhara, Mr. Rajkumar, Ms. Sutiksha Mishra and Mr. Devkant Tripathi.

A large number of experts offered valuable support in preparing this report. The chapter *Background to Punjab* has benefited from a number of background papers. Dr. Indu Banga's paper served as the basis for the section on History of Punjab, the section on Green Revolution draws from the background papers by Prof. Sucha Singh Gill and Prof. Gopal Iyer. Prof. Gopal Iyer also contributed to the sections on Peasant Movement in Punjab, Naxalite Movement in Punjab and Militancy in Punjab. The section on Militancy in Punjab benefited from discussions with several other resource persons and the literature available.

The chapter *Economy and Livelihoods* is based on background papers written by Prof. Sucha Singh Gill, Dr. Sukhvinder Singh and Dr. Jasvinder Singh Brar. The papers written by Prof. Pam Rajput and Dr. Manvinder Barar contributed to the chapter *Women and Children – Facets of Human Development*. Mr. Rakesh Kaushik wrote the section on women and children. The chapter *The Agriculturalist in Punjab* draws on papers written by Prof. S.S. Gill and Prof. Gopal Iyer. Prof. Gopal Iyer also wrote background papers for the chapters *Dalits – On the Margins of Development* and *Migrant Labour – Problems of the Invisible*. For the chapter *Education – Building People*, discussions and a note by Prof. Harkishen Singh Mehta served to highlight the issues.

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Extensive discussions were held with the officers of the departments concerned of Govt. of Punjab during the process of preparation of this report. We thank the officers of all these departments.

The report has been enriched with the valuable inputs and observations made by Dr. S.S. Johal, Vice-Chairman, and Sh. R.R. Bhardwaj, Dy. Chairman of the Punjab State Planning Board.

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A.R.Talwar, IAS
Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Department of Planning





Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Messages</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>vii</i>
Chapter 1	
Introduction	1
Chapter 2	
Punjab: A Background	11
Chapter 3	
Economy and Livelihoods	31
Chapter 4	
Health in Punjab	61
Chapter 5	
Education – Building People	93
Chapter 6	
Women and Children – Facets of Human Development	111
Chapter 7	
Dalits – On the Margins of Development	143
Chapter 8	
Migrant Labour – Problems of the Invisible	155
Chapter 9	
The Agriculturist in Punjab	167
Chapter 10	
An Agenda for Human Development	179
Technical Notes	187
<i>Statistical Tables</i>	<i>193</i>
<i>District Profiles</i>	<i>211</i>
<i>Glossary</i>	<i>229</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>231</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>235</i>

List of Tables

Table 1.1	Human Development Index for India – Combined	5
Table 1.2	Human Development Index – 1991	6
Table 1.3	Human Development Index – 2001	8
Table 1.4	Gender-related Development Index in Punjab – 2001	8
Table 3.1	Average Annual Compound Growth Rate of Gross State/National Income (in Percentage)	32
Table 3.2	Percentage Share of Capital Formation of Gross State Domestic Product of Punjab	33
Table 3.3	Percentage Distribution of Net State Domestic Product of Punjab at Factor Cost at Constant Prices (at 1980–81 prices)	34
Table 3.4	Distribution of Workforce in Punjab	35
Table 3.5	Decennial Rate of Growth of Per Hectare Returns at Cost A1, B2, and C2	40
Table 3.6	Distribution of Operational Land Holdings in Punjab, 1970–71, 1980–81, 1990–91 and 1995–96	41
Table 3.7	Livestock Population in Punjab – 1977, 1990 and 1997 (in lakhs)	44
Table 3.8	Composition of Milch Animals in Punjab – 1997	44
Table 3.9	Agricultural Labour in the Total Workforce of Punjab, 1971, 1981 and 1991	45
Table 3.10	Distribution of Main Workers in Punjab (in Percentage)	46
Table 3.11	Number of Non-Agricultural Establishments and Persons usually Working	47
Table 3.12	Trend of Growth Rates in Output of Manufacturing and Agricultural Sectors of Punjab	50
Table 3.13	Trend of Growth Rate of Factory Sector Industries in Punjab 1979–80 to 1996–97 (at 1981–82 prices)	51
Table 3.14	Selected Indicators of Industrial Progress in Punjab (in percent)	52
Table 3.15	Industrial Workforce in Punjab – 1971, 1981 and 1991 Census	52
Table 3.16	Value of Exports and Industrial Production of Industrial Goods in Punjab, 1974–75 to 1998–99	55
Table 3.17	Share of Industrial Workforce in Public and Private Sectors in Punjab 1971–98	55
Table 4.1	Life Expectancy in the Indian States	62
Table 4.2	Life Expectancy by Sex and Place of Residence (1992–96)	63
Table 4.3	Ranking of Districts by Life Expectancy in Punjab, 1981 and 1991	64
Table 4.4	Infant Mortality Indicators by Place of Residence	66
Table 4.5	Regional Estimates of Infant Mortality Rate in Punjab, 1992	67
Table 4.6	Age Specific Share of Deaths to Total Estimated Deaths in 1996 (in Percentages)	69
Table 4.7	Age Specific Mortality Rates of Women in Punjab	69
Table 4.8	Estimate of TFR for Punjab	70
Table 4.9	Number of Persons Ailing per 1000 (Population) in Indian States	71
Table 4.10	Rate of Prevalence of Diseases of Poverty by Place of Residence and Estimated Number of Patients, 1993	71

Table 4.11	Broad Category-wise Outdoor Patients, Indoor Patients treated and Number of Deaths among Indoor Patients in Punjab, 1999	72
Table 4.12	Cases Treated at the De-addiction Centre, Mohali (November 1991– December 1998)	76
Table 4.13	Hospitalised and Non-Hospitalised Treatment Received in Punjab and India	77
Table 4.14	Public Medical Institutions in Punjab by Location and Ownership, 2000	78
Table 4.15	Public Medical Institutions in Punjab by Type of Institution, 2000	79
Table 4.16	Population Served per Medical Institution, per Bed, per Medical and Paramedical Personnel in Punjab	80
Table 4.17	Number of Children Expected to be Born in 2001 per 1000 Females in the Reproductive Ages	82
Table 4.18	Targets and Achievements of the Immunisation Programme in Punjab, 1999–2000	84
Table 4.19	Vaccination Coverage in Punjab as per NFHS I and II, and, NSS 52nd Round, 1995–96	84
Table 4.20	Villages Covered under Rural Drinking Water Supply Schemes in Punjab (Year 2000)	85
Table 4.21	Number of Households per 1000 Using Different Processes to Clean Drinking Water	87
Table 4.22	Types of Latrines and Types of Drainage Used per 1000 Households in Punjab	88
Table 4.23	Budget Allocation for Health in Five Year Plans	89
Table 4.24	Expenditure on Medicine and Public Health by Government of Punjab, State Budget 1998–99	90
Table 5.1	Literacy Rates by Sex in Punjab (in percent)	94
Table 5.2	States and Union Territories Ranked by Literacy Rate, 2001	95
Table 5.3	Ranking of Districts by Literacy (in percent)	96
Table 5.4	District-wise Data on the Rural-Urban Divide and Percentage Decrease in Rural-Urban Differential	98
Table 5.5	District-wise Literacy Rates by Sex	99
Table 5.6	Comparative Male-Female Literacy Rates in Punjab	99
Table 5.7	District-wise Male and Female Literacy in Urban and Rural Areas, Punjab, 2001	100
Table 5.8	Decadal Decrease in Illiteracy Rates of Males and Females, 1991–2001	101
Table 5.9	Estimated Enrolment Rates in Primary Schools in Punjab, 1999	102
Table 5.10	Year-wise Provision of Schools	103
Table 5.11	Teacher-Student Ratio at the Three Levels of Education	103
Table 5.12	Graduate and Post Graduate Education Institutions in Punjab	104
Table 6.1	HDI for Indian States, 2001	114
Table 6.2	Gender Equality Index (GEI) for Indian States, 1991	115
Table 6.3	HDI and GEI for Indian States, 1991	116
Table 6.4	HDI and GDI for the Districts in Punjab	116



Table 6.5	Ranking of Districts by Sex Ratio: 1991 and 2001	118
Table 6.6	Sex Ratio of Punjab and its Districts 1901 – 2001	119
Table 6.7	Sex Ratio in the 0-6 age Group for Punjab and its Districts	120
Table 6.8	Districts with the Lowest Child Sex Ratio in India, 2001	121
Table 6.9	Age-specific Mortality Rate by Sex and Residence, 1997 (Punjab)	123
Table 6.10	District-wise Total Infant Mortality Rate, Male Infant Mortality Rate and Female Infant Mortality Rate for 1981 and 1991	123
Table 6.11	Mortality Rate of Children Under 5 Years	124
Table 6.12	Birth Rate and Total Fertility Rate in Punjab (1971–1997) by place of residence	124
Table 6.13	Some Maternal Health Indicators of 15 Major States, 1995–96	126
Table 6.14	Literacy Rate in Punjab	128
Table 6.15	District-wise Literacy Rate in Punjab: 2001	129
Table 6.16	Ranking of Districts by Sex Ratio and Literacy Levels 2001	130
Table 6.17	Total Workers, Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers as Percentage of Total Population, 1991 and 2001	131
Table 6.18 (a)	Percentage of Main, Marginal and Non-Workers in Punjab by Sex	132
Table 6.18 (b)	Ranking of Districts by Female Workforce Participation Rate and Sex Ratio	132
Table 6.19	Representation of Women in Lok Sabha from Punjab 1952–1998	133
Table 6.20	Representation of Women in State Legislative Assembly, 1952–1997	134
Table 6.21	Corporators in Punjab as on 1.11.97	134
Table 6.22	Number and Percentage of Electors and Voters in Punjab in 1999	135
Table 6.23	District-wise Number of Crime Cases Against Women	137
Table 7.1	Population of Major Scheduled Castes in Punjab, 1991	146
Table 7.2	Population and Literacy amongst Scheduled Castes in Punjab, 1991	148
Table 7.3	Literacy Rate amongst Scheduled Castes in Punjab in 1991	148
Table 7.4	Sector-wise Share of Employment of SC and non-SC Community in Punjab in 1991	149
Table 8.1	Estimation of Inter-State Migrant Labour in Punjab in late 1990s	156
Table 8.2	Estimates of Total Migrant Workers in Punjab Agriculture	157
Table 9.1	Occupational Distribution of Scheduled Castes, 1991	169

Statistical Tables

Table 1	Human Development Index 2001 – Punjab	193
Table 2	Gender-related Development Index 2001	194
Table 3	District Information	195
Table 4	Demography	195
Table 5	Sex Ratio	196
Table 6	Sex Ratio (Children below 6 years)	196
Table 7	Work Participation Rate	197
Table 8	Land Use	197

Table 9	Percentage Distribution of Net State Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Sectors in Punjab at Constant 1993–94 Prices (percent)	198
Table 10	Percentage Distribution of Net State Domestic Product at Constant Prices (1980–81) for Punjab State	199
Table 11	Per Hectare Yield of Wheat and Rice in Punjab (kg.)	200
Table 12	Per Hectare Yield of Cotton in Punjab (kg.)	201
Table 13	Number of Non-Agricultural Own Account Enterprises by Major Activity Groups, 1998	202
Table 14	Transfer of Resources from Centre to Punjab (Rs. Crore)	202
Table 15	Advance-Deposit Ratio of Public Sector Banks	203
Table 16	Distribution of Registered Working Factories and Workforce Employed by Size-Groups	203
Table 17	Share of Manufacturing Sector Output of Registered and Unregistered Sectors in Punjab	204
Table 18	Growth of Registered & Working Factories and Workers Employed in Punjab – 1971–1999	204
Table 19	Growth Pattern of Small and Medium/Large Industries in Punjab, 1970–71 to 1998–99	205
Table 20	Structure of Output and Workforce Employed in the Manufacturing Sector of Punjab	206
Table 21	Life Expectancy at Birth	207
Table 22	Infant and Child Mortality	207
Table 23	Population Served per Medical Institution, per Bed, per Medical and Paramedical Personnel in Punjab	208
Table 24	Health – District-wise Number of Institutions	208
Table 25	District-wise Male and Female Literacy in Urban and Rural Areas, Punjab, 2001	209
Table 26	Infrastructure	209

List of Maps

Map 1	Punjab Human Development Index – 2001	7
Map 2	Punjab Gender Related Development Index	9

List of Boxes

Box 1.1	UNDP Human Development Reports	2
Box 2.1	Guru Nanak (1469–1539)	12
Box 2.2	Guru Gobind Singh (1666–1708)	13
Box 2.3	The Freedom Struggle	14
Box 2.4	Case Study of Village Barwali Khurd, Machchiwara Block, Samrala Tehsil, Ludhiana	19
Box 4.1	Ailments and Births in a Year	79
Box 4.2	Immunisation of Children	83
Box 4.3	Following the Example of Kerala	91
Box 5.1	Jomtien Declaration, 1990	93

Box 6.1	Why Invest More in Women?	112
Box 6.2	Misuse of Diagnostic Techniques for Male Child	121
Box 6.3	Engendered Education	130
Box 6.4	Violence Women Face over the Life Cycle	136
Box 7.1	Policy of Job Reservation: Effective since 1974	151
Box 7.2	Case Study 1: Village Langedi, District Jalandhar	152
Box 7.3	Case Study 2: Dalits in the Shivalik Region	152
Box 7.4	Case Study 3: Caste-based Discrimination in Doaba Region	153
Box 8.1	Features of Bondage	162
Box 8.2	Case Study: Bonded Labour, Hoshiarpur (Manjit Singh, 1995)	162
Box 9.1	Migration to Other Countries	170
Box 9.2	Condition of Labourers in Malwa	171
Box 10.1	Programmes with People's Involvement	180

List of Figures

Figure 3.1	(a) : Per Hectare Yield of Wheat in Punjab (in kg)	39
Figure 3.1	(a) : Per Hectare Yield of Rice in Punjab (in kg)	39
Figure 3.2	Per Hectare Yield of Cotton in Punjab (in kg)	39
Figure 3.3	Composition of Milch Animals in Punjab – 1997	44
Figure 4.1	Life Expectancy at Birth – Indian States, 1992–96	63
Figure 4.2	Infant Mortality by Sex and Residence, 1998 (SRS estimates)	64
Figure 4.3	Infant Mortality Rate from 1971 to 2000 – Kerala, India and Punjab	65
Figure 4.4	Child Mortality in Punjab by Sex and Residence, 1996 (SRS estimates)	67
Figure 4.5	Death Rates in Punjab and India, 1988–1997	67
Figure 4.6	Regional Death Rates in Punjab, 1987–1992	68
Figure 4.7	Share of Deaths in Different Age Groups to Total Estimated Deaths, 1996	68
Figure 4.8	Anaemia amongst women	76
Figure 4.9	Percentage of Ailments Receiving Non-Hospitalised Treatment from a Government Facility, 1985–86 and 1995–96	78
Figure 4.10	Households Reporting Insufficient Drinking Water for Some Part of the Year, 1998	86
Figure 4.11	Type of Cooking Fuel used per 1000 Households, Punjab 1993	89
Figure 4.12	Allocation to Medical and Public Health in Five Year Plans	90
Figure 5.1	Region-wise Literacy Rate for Males	96
Figure 5.2	Region-wise Literacy Rate for Females	97
Figure 5.3	Distribution of District as per their Literacy Levels by Sex and Place of Residence	101
Figure 7.1	Literacy Rates among SCs and non SCs in Punjab, 1991	147
Figure 7.2	Comparison of Child Mortality Rates, 1993-94 (National Family Health Survey I)	150